



FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



Habitats

Coral reefs
Algal-sponge communities
Brine seep
Sand flats
Pelagic, open ocean
Drowned reefs



Frank and Joyce Burek



Frank and Joyce Burek



Frank and Joyce Burek



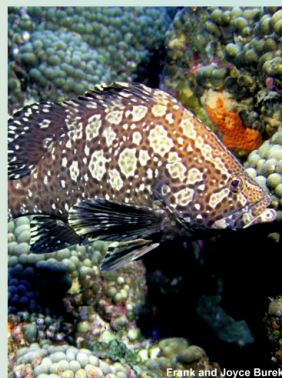
Key Species

Star and Brain coral



Frank and Joyce Burek

Grouper



Frank and Joyce Burek

Manta ray



Frank and Joyce Burek

Hammerhead shark

Loggerhead sea
turtle

Astonishing Fact

Located in the Gulf of Mexico, Flower Garden Banks are the tops of salt deposits that rise from the depths to about 50 to 100 feet from the surface. The thickness of these salt deposits is estimated at about 11 miles!



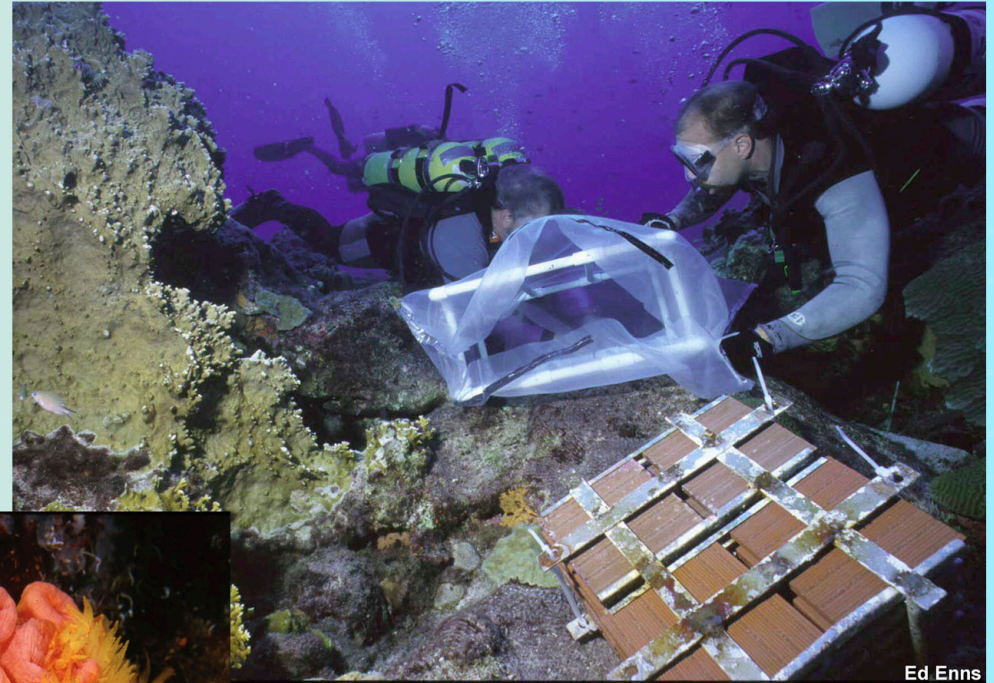


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Astonishing Fact

Once each year, on exactly the eighth day after the August full moon, corals on the Flower Garden Banks spawn, all at the same time. Divers have described it as an “upside-down snow storm.”



*Sanctuary designation
January 1992
October 1996*